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SENATE BILL 1155 By
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HOUSE BILL 1343
By Ford S

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 55, Chapter 4,
Part 1, relative to requirements for registering a motor
vehicle in this state.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 55, Chapter 4, Part 1, is amended by
adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated section:

Section _____. (a) An individual applying for registration or renewal of registration
for a motor vehicle shall not be issued registration plates unless the applicant possesses
a valid driver license at the time such application is made. If the vehicle is owned jointly
and one of the owners does not possess a valid driver license at the time such
application is made, the registration plates shall be issued only to the owner who
possesses a valid driver license.

(b) Notwithstanding the requirements of subsection (a), registration plates for a
motor vehicle may be issued in the following circumstances:

(1) If the owner of the vehicle is not licensed to drive and inherited the
motor vehicle as a surviving spouse;

(2) If the owner of the vehicle is not licensed to drive but has a licensed
driver or drivers living in such person's household;

(3) If the owner of the vehicle is not licensed to drive but places the
vehicle at the disposal or use of a person who possesses a valid driver license;

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(4) If the owner of the vehicle has a permanent handicapped registration, as provided for in Title 55, Chapter 21; or

(5) The person filing the application to secure the registration or renewal pursuant to a valid power of attorney on behalf of another person presents the valid license of the principal or a photocopy of such license.

(c) If a person claims one of the circumstances in subsection (b), the application shall be accompanied by documentation required by the department to obtain the registration plates.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-4-101, is amended by adding the following language at the end of subsection (e):

A temporary permit shall be issued only to a person who possesses a valid driver license at the time the application for registration is made unless one (1) of the circumstances included in Section 1(b) of this act is claimed.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-4-105(f), is amended by adding the following language at the end of the subsection:

Provided, however, the county clerk shall be required to verify whether the applicant possesses a valid driver license for issuance of registration plates as required by Section 1 of this act.

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 1997, the public welfare requiring it.